The Lions' Pride

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Brooke King: Newspaper Alumni and Soldier

By Jessica Willing
Contributing Writer

The University prides itself on its students, staff, and faculty, and boasts a variety of successful alumni with different backgrounds and successes to their credit. Brooke King, an adjunct English professor at the University, has accomplished much in her adult years, and doesn't plan to stop anytime soon.

Many of these accomplishments have been based in the literary profession, a world she is no stranger to. As a student, she worked as an intern for YellowJacket press, an editor for The Lions' Pride newspaper, and a contributor to the Sandhill Review. Recently, some of her poetry was published by Green Rabbit Press in a chapbook entitled "Love in the Shape of a War Zone."

As the title of the work implies, the first section of the chapbook features poetry centered on King's experiences in the military and her year-long tour in Iraq when she was nineteen. She has a wide range of experiences from her time in the military, and she jokingly remarks that she was trained in "20 different things" before deployed; the idea being that if every soldier was trained in multiple areas of expertise, there was sure to be at least one person in a company who knew how to accomplish whatever needed to be done. King was a 50 caliber gunner, convoy mechanic, and navigation and radio specialist. She also recovered vehicles from combat situations. Her experiences challenge the idea that women in the military are kept off the frontlines.

"When you're in the middle of a warzone, combat is all around you," said King.

One of her duties was to go out on convoys. Whenever a problem arose with one of the vehicles, King would be the one dispatched over the radio to fix it. And in her experience, something as mundane as a flat tire becomes life-threatening when it happens in the middle of enemy fire.

"I would jump out of the vehicle I was in, in full gear with my weapon, and run to patch the tire while being shot at," said King.

In order to prevent her from being gunned down,

King Con't page 7

Former Arts & Entertainment editor, Brooke King, publishes her first book of poetry.

General Talks Peace to University Students

By Jessica Willing
Contributing Writer

On Feb. 26, the University's Departments of Political Science and Criminal Justice hosted a speaking event featuring four stars General Bryan Doug Brown. He spoke to a gathering of students and members of the community on the subject of the U.S. military and NATO's role in the pursuit and preservation of world peace. He cites the role as "incredibly complex, often criticized, seldom understood by anybody, and incredibly important".

Brown retired in 2007 following four decades of military service: including time in Vietnam, founding the 160th SOAR (Special Operations Aviation Regiment), which headed various missions such as Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He served as the Commander of the U.S. Special Operations from 2003 until his retirement. He currently resides in Lake Jovita and has served as a commencement speaker for the University several years ago.

Brown identified two factors in the way peacekeeping efforts work. The one that most people think of is what he terms the direct approach, involving direct military interference, but this approach is not what is most important to establishing stability and lasting peace. It is the indirect approach that Brown spent most of his time discussing.

The indirect approach refers to efforts at changing the lives of individuals living in an unstable country, training the country's forces to be able to protect themselves, improving the civil structure of the government, and introducing healthcare and other aid to help make life easier for the citizens living in the communities. Ultimately, the indirect approach focuses on eliminating the suffering of the people and turning chaos into order from the inside out. The indirect approach is more humanitarian in its efforts, and involves knowledge of a people's language and culture or a willingness to learn.

"Peacekeeping is not always as simple as everyone thinks," said Brown.

While the indirect approach is key to such efforts, it is often underemphasized in military tactics. This is what makes NATO coalitions so important to preserving peace: they bring relevant cultural knowledge to the table.

The general presented a picture of a young man in uniform, gun set aside as he kneeled down on the dusty ground to hold out his hand to a young girl. Brown said the man in the picture was a highly trained American soldier with deadly aim and accuracy. But that was not the side of his training that the picture captured. Instead, it was a picture showing the importance of building positive human relationships with others, no matter how different they may be.

Peacekeeping is more complex than many believe it to be. But that certainly doesn't mean it's not worth the effort. As Brown said several times during his presentation, the role, although complex, is a worthy one.

Photo courtesy of U.S. Army

General Brown imparted his knowledge to students and community members

CHECK US OUT ONLINE!

Mayhem Poets

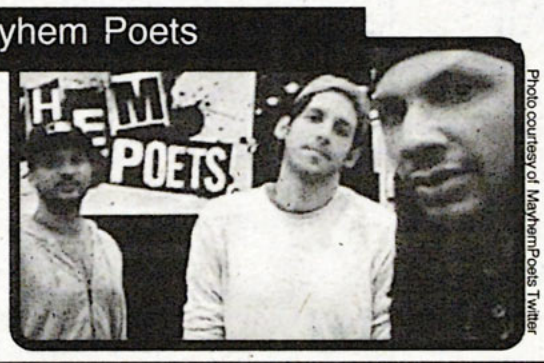

Photo courtesy of MayhemPoets Twitter

Survivor Malala

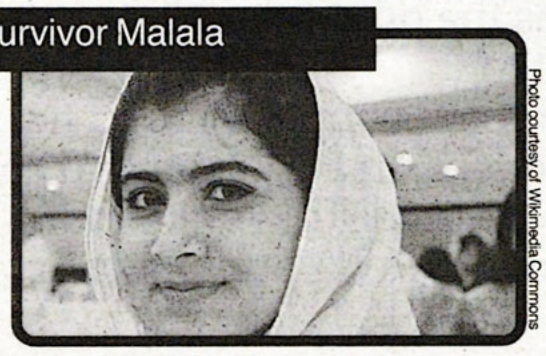

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Regional Spotlight

Editorial

Sigma Tau Delta Goes to Savannah

By Jessica Miller
Layout Editor

Sigma Tau Delta (STD), also known as the English Honor Society, made a trip to the annual STD conference in Savannah, GA, from Feb. 27 to March 2. Conferences offer great opportunities to network, enhance one's skills, practice professional conversations, and explore a different city's culture.

Conferences are meetings where people can enhance their skills and gain opportunities by meeting and learning from experts. These conferences can be about newspaper employees, novel fan clubs, band lovers, and many more. Each conference offers its own activities and sessions that give participants the chance to re-appreciate their love.

Participating in the Savannah conference has given me and my six fellow members who attended the trip a wide range of experience. Going to Savannah made me realize the importance of checklists and flexibility. Not only does one need to remember to pack the essentials (like a toothbrush and professional clothes), but it is important to plan your daily routine. For example, I woke up and started to iron my suit and blouse, but I realized I had no lint brush, so I had to resort to using tape to de-lint my suit. Creating a checklist of every item you need to complete your daily routine. Also remember to keep track of hotel confirmation, writing utensils, paper, and a folder to carry papers you obtain.

Take advantage of the conference as much as possible. When you check in, look through the entire schedule and decide what is important for you attend. Then look for opportunities to have some fun with your fellow nerds. For example, the STD members decided to take a break and attend a session that offered a night of bad poetry and t-shirt skits. The bad poetry was performed on the spot by attendees, and the skits included groups who created short plays with different t-shirt sayings such as "Sherlock is my Holmes boy" and "STD: We're geeks, not Greeks."

While attending the sessions, take notes and form questions to ask the presenters. You are at a conference to expand your knowledge, so take advantage of it. Also, have a resume and business card ready in case you connect with another person. You never know what business opportunities could become possible because of it. The STD chapter attended several sessions on loss of faith in the 19th century, creative non-fiction, and J. R. R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis.

Remember to explore the culture of the city you're visiting as well. Look beforehand at what is offered in the area and what makes that culture unique. Try to sample stores, restaurants, and history tours that can give you an appreciation for the city in sparknote form. While in Savannah, me and my group tried to go to different restaurants every day. We attended a history trolley tour and haunting tour that gave us the quick facts about Savannah's past.

Photo taken by Jessica Miller

Ashley Reynolds (seen above), one os the STD members from the University to attend the confrence, answers questions from the audience that talk about loss of faith in the 19th century. Anyone is able to ask questions, and students should ask questions that can help them to understand the writer's meaning and purpose to thier thesis. The question session after presentations come and go quick, so have questions prepared before the question session begins.

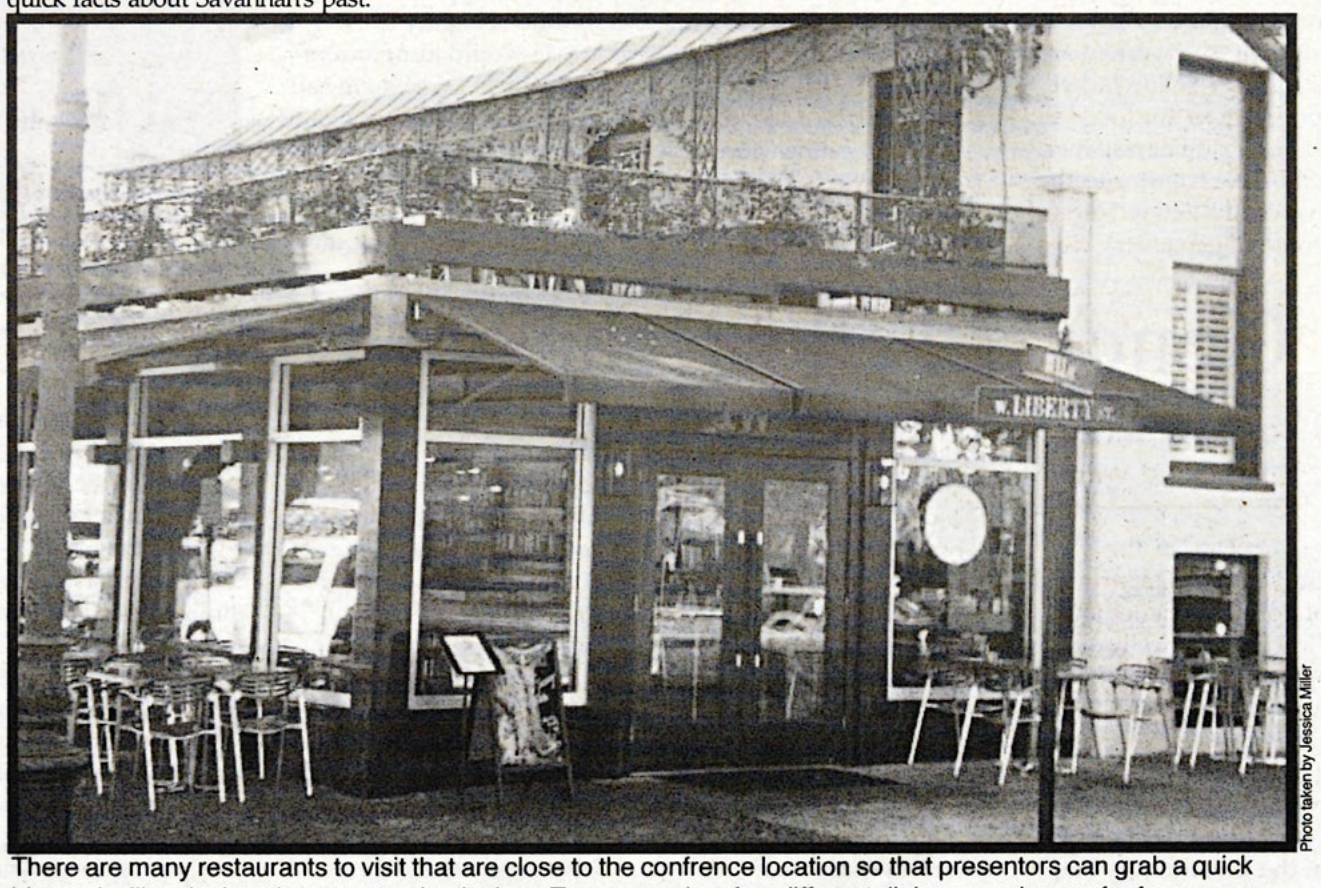

Photo taken by Jessica Miller

There are many restaurants to visit that are close to the confrence location so that presentors can grab a quick bite and still make it to the next session in time. Try to sample a few different dining experiences for fun.

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Letters to the editor to The Lions' Pride should be no more than 500 words in length and should not include profane or slanderous language. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, spelling, and libel; as well as the right to publish or not. All submissions should be sent to **thelionspridenewspaper@gmail.com**. Letters to the editor must be submitted with student's name, year, and major. Faculty and staff members must include rank and department. Please include a phone number (not a publication) so we can verify authorship.

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Editorial

To Aid to an Anti-Gay Country or Not

By Sam Giorgi
Contributing Writer

Uganda has recently come under a lot of scrutiny in the western world for its political views regarding homosexuality. The Anti-Homosexuality Act was signed into law by Yoweri Museveni, The President of Uganda, on Feb. 24, 2014. The act originally proposed the death penalty, coining the nickname the "Kill the Gays Bill" in the media. Its penalty has since changed to a potential life in prison.

The plight of the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) community in the United States is well known. The main concern is marriage equality. Seventeen of our fifty states have legalized same-sex marriage, and many European countries have as well. Because of the growing acceptance, governments are appalled by the introduction of The Anti-Homosexuality Act in Uganda and are threatening to pull their financial support from the country. Some European countries have already pulled their donations, and the United States is presently considering doing the same. The country receives a reported $400 million annually, which would be a huge hit to Uganda's donated income.

The obvious dilemma here is weighing the importance of political relations and a country's morals. For those countries that have already pulled their aid, their decision has been clearly made. However, is it right to impose Western views of what's right and wrong on other countries? The obvious answer is no.

David Bahati, a Ugandan politician who initially sought the death penalty for homosexuality, claims that threatening to pull aid is practically blackmail. However, he also stated that taking the hits from pulled donations is worth it because they'll be retaining their values. The Ugandan government may seek aid from other countries with less bias in order to escape imperialism from Western donators. With similar conservative views existing in many other countries, they may be able to do just that. The bill has many supporters inside and outside of Uganda despite the overwhelming Western criticism of it.

The issue is a conflict of values on both sides of the argument. It seems that the Ugandan government, despite the threats of pulled donations, is standing its ground. Similarly, so are the Western governments who believe The Anti-Homosexuality Act is a blatant affront to human rights. The pulled donations are already having an effect on Uganda's economy, but the long-term effects are yet to be seen.

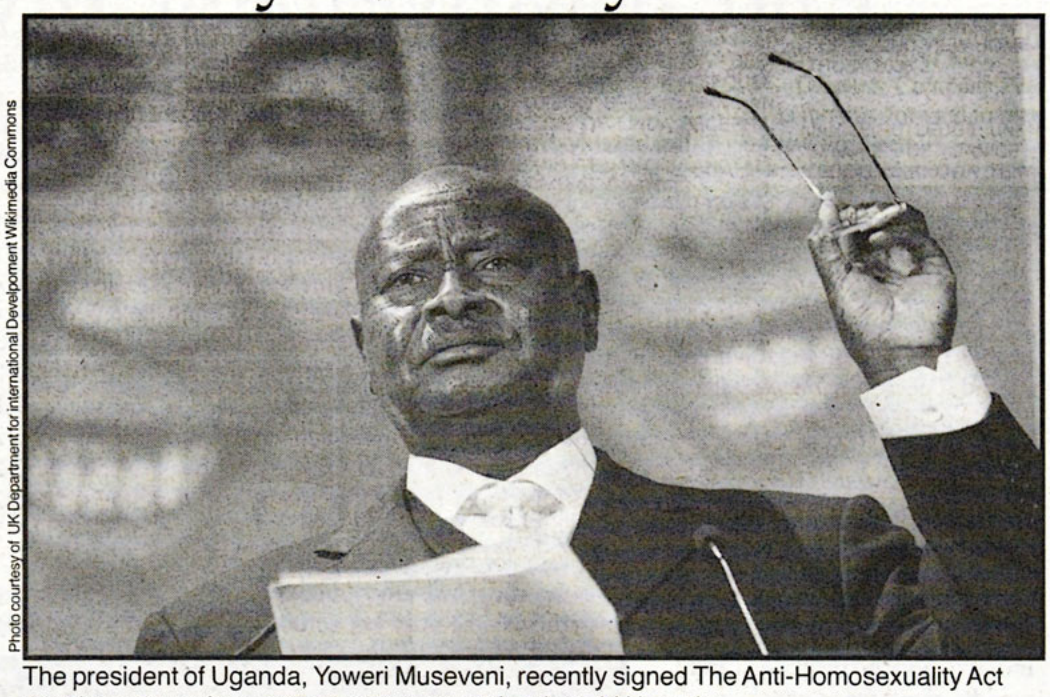


Photo courtesy of UK Department for international Development Wikimedia Commons

The president of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni, recently signed The Anti-Homosexuality Act despite outrage from some western countries that aid Uganda.

Are You A Liker or A Sharer on Your Social Media

By Jessica Miller
Layout Editor

Like is now a verb thanks to Facebook and similar social media networking sites. And sharing has taken on a new meaning. Both liking and sharing are becoming more natural ways to connect with other people about common interests. Interestingly enough, many people can be dividing into likers or sharers depending upon their social media activity.

For those who are not so in-depth into the social media craze-a "like" is a one-click button that signifies approval or agreeing on behalf of the liker. The like button is very useful, for otherwise there would be several millions comments under posts that give agreeing words.

A liking person is someone who prefers to search for videos and posts that interest him/her and deserve a "like" on that social media page. The likers do not find so much enjoyment in sharing as they do liking. The likers spend a lot of time on a few social media sites and focus on improving the visual aspects of their page and the content. Thus, the sites they are on usually have the information and gossip they already enjoy available and often have no need to share, for they already have the information on their favorite social media. Likers also tend to follow the same pattern when putting their own work on their social media. They talk about themselves, their accomplishments, problems, or even little factoids about their day. i.e. "Hey Guys! Just ate a cupcake from my birthday 2 days ago, whatever!" They also give risky or broad comments or posts on other's social media. i.e. "That video sucks! I only like the dog in the video." They tend to focus on the small satisfactions that come with a quick like and sometimes a re-blogging on their personal page, rather they following a post or share for a period of time.

Sharers enjoy spreading news and seeing how far it goes within a span of time.

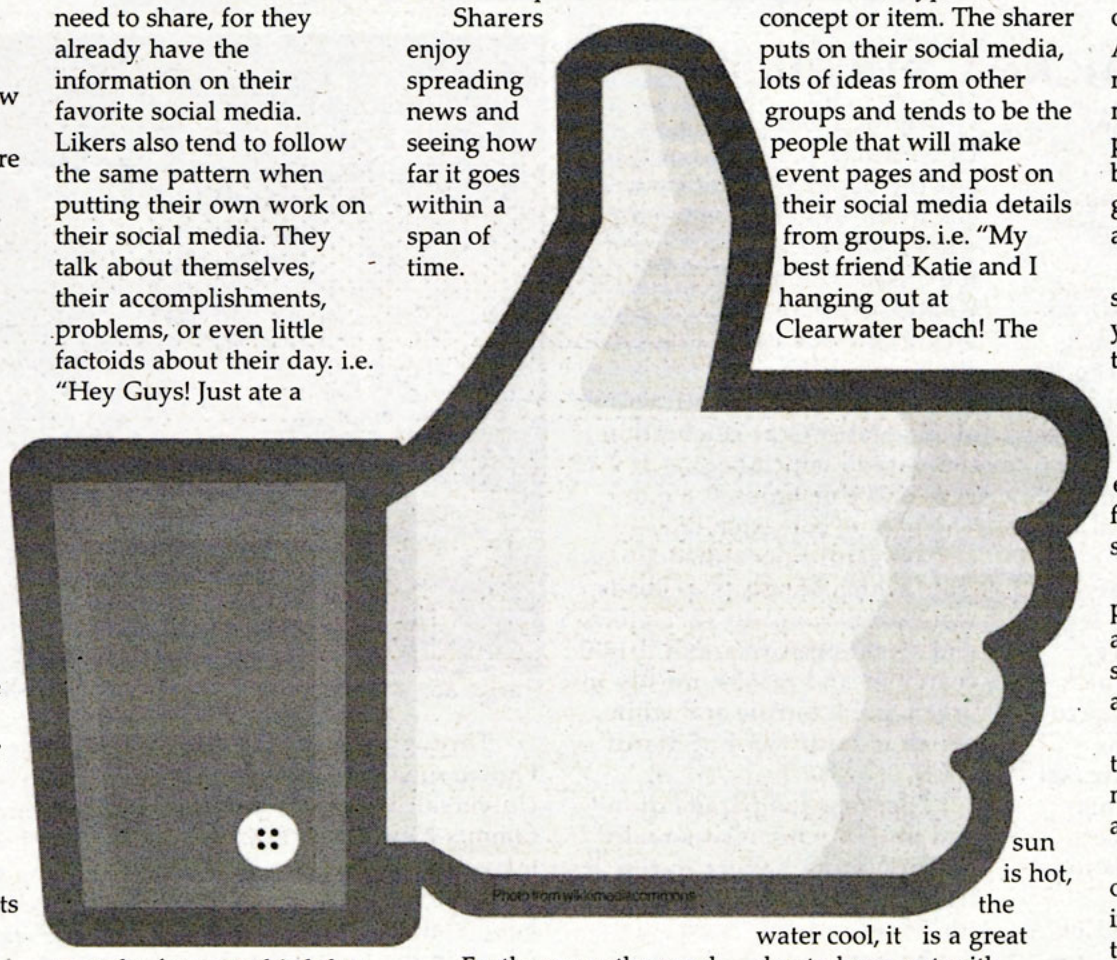


Photo from wikimediacommons

Furthermore they seek feedback from likers to help them decide what they will share. The sharers spend more time sharing things other people have shared instead of liking, for they are not receiving any positive feedback from liking. And the more feedback they get from sharing something, the more likely they will share more of that type of concept or item. The sharer puts on their social media, lots of ideas from other groups and tends to be the people that will make event pages and post on their social media details from groups. i.e. "My best friend Katie and I hanging out at Clearwater beach! The sun is hot, the water cool, it is a great day to hang out with friends." They tend to focus a lot on detail and do not want to give time to look at things that are not shared or widely accepted in their social group.

Whether you are a liker or sharer, you are a contribution to the other type and help to move social media forward and spread news faster. This article is comprised of my observations and opinion. As the world becomes more immerse in social media, it can be agree that people's personalities can be seen creating even more groups of people they anyone ever thought of.

For more fun, try the short quiz below to see if you are a liker or sharer in the social media world, or maybe even a mixture of both?

1) Do you tend to enjoy being on tumblr or facebook more than other social media sites?

2) When you see a post you like, do you like it and only share it on that social media site that you are currently on?

3) Do you have less than five or less social media sites that you visit at least once every day?

4) Do you scroll others pages for information before looking to see who liked your posts?

If you answered yes to the majority of the above questions, then, chances are, you are a liker-type on social media.

Campus News

End It Movement Invokes Passion

By Ally Vincent
Contributing Writer

On Thursday, Feb. 27, faculty, staff, and students around campus walked around with red X's on their hands. Some individuals knew what the red X stood for, while others really had no idea.

The idea behind the red X on the hand is that an individual will see the red X and question what it is. They would especially wonder what it stands for if a variety of individuals have it. It is supposed to create a domino effect- once an individual informs another individual about the End it Movement, they both have red X's on their hands. The groups proceed to multiply because people ask and wonder about the red X's.

The individuals that wore the red X on their hand are freedom fighters, and they are shining a light on slavery. By drawing a red X on their hand, they were telling the world that slavery still exists and they will not stand for it. It was a simple way of spreading the statistics of slavery. There are currently 27 million people enslaved, the largest that it has ever been. That is the population of Florida and Georgia combined! These individuals were trying to influence other individuals in any way they could by bringing awareness and shining a light on slavery, even brighter than ever.

According to the End it Movement, "slavery occurs when one person completely controls another person, using violence or the threat of violence to maintain that control, exploits them economically, pays them nothing and they cannot walk away."

Slavery is constituted as labor or sexual slavery. It is typically found that 8 out of 10 cases are related sex trafficking cases and the rest are labor trafficking cases. It is also found that 161 countries are found with having human trafficking. It is approximate that 48 people a day become slaves, on the same land that abolished slavery 150 years ago. Half of those people are children.

Junior Brandi Henry participated in the End it Movement. She chose to participate because her sorority, Sigma Lambda Gamma, promotes the end of human trafficking. Since human trafficking is a form of slavery, she wants to support the movement.

"It is important because it can happen to anybody and people need to be more aware," she said.

Brandi also mentioned that she believes more awareness needs to be raised about this issue. She thinks that continuing to have educationals and spreading awareness to people will help put an end to slavery.

Senior Christie Joyce also believes that more education and awareness can be done. There are more and more organizations, such as International Justice Mission and Redefining Refuge, which work towards bringing awareness of slavery towards college campuses and communities around the world.

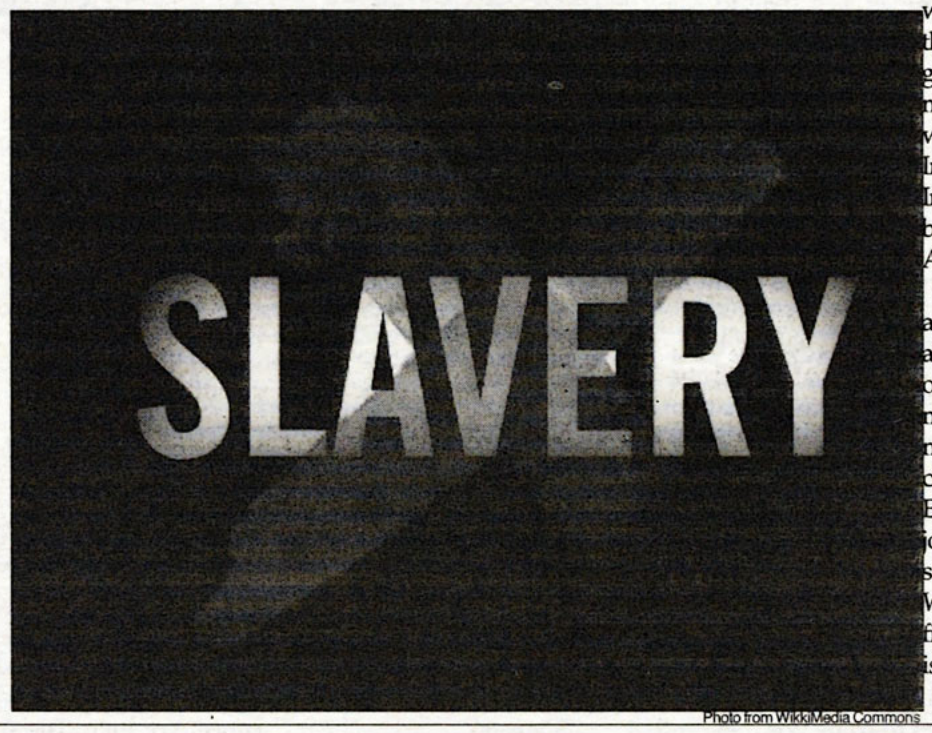


Photo from WikkiMedia Commons

The End it Movement partners with a variety of worldwide organizations to shine a light on slavery. The red X represents that you know that slavery still exists but you will not stand for it anymore; it needs to stop. Another way of spreading awareness about this is by taking a picture and using hashtags on various social media sites such as Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook. A variety of celebrities also participated this day by displaying the red X. These celebrities included artist Carrie Underwood and author Bob Goff.

When visiting the www.enditmovement.com website, their mission entails "Let's be the generation to stand up for the 27 million trapped in slavery around the world today. In brothels. In factories. In mines. On street corners. In homes. In the shadows, hidden. Yet out in broad daylight, in plain sight here in America."

By joining together, bringing awareness and continuing to talk about the injustice of slavery occurring in the world, more and more missions will be completed and more brothels and factories will be closed or shut down. You can go to the End it Movement website to sign up to join this moment; this is your way of saying you will not stand it anymore. We, as individuals, need to keep fighting this battle together until there is an end!

Robin Thicke Cancelled

By Janet Small and Jennifer Broom
Contributing Writer

Students' night at the Universal Mardi Gras Celebration on Feb. 22nd was cut short when Robin Thicke pulled out last minute. The trip, organized by the Campus Activities Board, was supposed to end at 11 p.m., but was changed to 8 p.m. Students were not told of this until they arrived in Orlando.

Thicke released a statement saying: "I never want to let down my fans, but I have unfortunately lost my voice and cannot perform tomorrow night. I have been looking forward to going to Universal Studios in Orlando and am very sorry that my concert there tomorrow now has to be cancelled."

Days later, however, Robin Thicke and wife Paula Patton announced their divorce, leading to speculation that this was the real reason for him cancelling performances in Atlanta, Orlando and postponing his show in Cherokee, North Carolina.

The tickets cost $15 for students. A new check-in system was used for the Universal trip. Instead of filling out the paper waivers, an electronic system was used as students lined up to get on to the buses. The buses arrived in Universal at around 2:15 p.m., meaning students had less than six hours at the park.

One of the main attractions at the Mardi Gras celebration is the parade which begins at 7:15 p.m. and concludes at 8 p.m. The parade consisted of extravagantly decorated floats from which handfuls of beads were thrown out to spectators, and street performers in bright costumes and masks; mostly in green, gold, purple and white, which is traditional of Mardi Gras.

"Because the parade didn't end until 8 p.m., it was really disappointing having to run from the parade to get back to the buses in time," said Sophomore Kelsey Stevens.

"One of my CAB Assistants was reading news on the internet and saw that he [Thicke] had cancelled his performance right after 11am. Therefore we made the decision to leave earlier than expected," said Edson O'Neale, Assistant Director of Student Activities.

Photo taken by Janet Small

The parade showcased floats typical of other Mari Gras celebrations.

Throughout the day, the French Quarter Courtyard in Universal, which mimics the famous New Orleans area, was busy with live music by performers from New Orleans. Food stalls sold food typically found in the Louisiana city such as spicy jambalaya, shrimp gumbo and grilled Andouille sausage.

The park's traditional attractions, its shows and rides, were open as usual, as well as the additional Mardi Gras attractions. After the parade was over, there were further music and celebrations at Universal City Walk, despite the concert being cancelled.

"It was a bit annoying having to leave so much earlier than expected, because by the time we got there, and had lunch we were only able to go on three rides before the parade," said Sophomore Maura Quirk.

Spring Break

Spring Break Destinations in Florida

By Shawnee Arnett
Contributing Writer

Spring Break is coming up, and students of the University already have an advantage over other college students from around the country: the University is in one of the nation's top spring break vacation destinations. When people think of the typical "Florida spring break," images of nonstop parties on the beach come to mind. Though this kind of vacation is certainly an option, there are also some hidden and underrated locations in the state that can be equally enjoyable for those seeking a different experience. Here is a list of potential spring break vacation spots in Florida, ranging from traditionally popular choices to some of Florida's hidden gems.

Ocala

For those who want to completely avoid the beach areas altogether, Ocala is an option. The tranquility of Ocala is complemented by its status as a horse capital, and visitors can experience all things equestrian during their stay. Ocala, which is just an hour's drive from the University, boasts several horse farms and horse shows, and is not far from Silver Springs Nature Park. The peace and quiet in Ocala compared to the high energy atmosphere of several major cities and beach locations found in Florida might appeal to those who simply want time off to have a completely relaxed vacation. The city does host several arts and entertainment events, so there is always something to do during a low key visit. As Ocala is not normally considered to be a major vacation spot, it won't be difficult to avoid large crowds while vacationing here.

Daytona Beach

Daytona is generally the first area that comes to mind when a person thinks of the Florida beach vacation. This tourist-heavy city has much to offer: miles of beach adorned with a boardwalk and a variety of restaurants and shops, a pier, activities such as mini golf and waterslides, a rich nightlife full of bars and night clubs, and an exciting atmosphere. Daytona is where many college students from around the country go for spring break, so it is packed to the brim during the spring (and summer) season. Spring break begins just as Daytona's annual Bike Week is ending, so vacationing students will still get the chance to catch the closing festivities. A Daytona trip during spring break will be costly and the area will be crowded, but for those who are interested in the standard beach party college trip, Daytona is a good option.

Orlando

When people think of Orlando, an image of Disney World almost always comes to mind, with the added images of Universal Studios Orlando and SeaWorld often accompanying it. Though these are all good options (though a bit on the pricey side- Disney World recently bumped up their one day Magic Kingdoms ticket prices to $99 per person, with the Epcot, Animal Kingdom, and Hollywood Studios costing $94 per person) they are not the only options. Those who wish to completely avoid the theme park scene can easily find something interesting to do, however. There are many hotels in the area that offer spa services for those interested in a more relaxed experience, while downtown Orlando has a strong nightlife for those interested in a more upbeat vacation. For those interested in seeing a show, Orlando Shakespeare Theater will be showcasing performances of Julius Caesar during the week of spring break. The Orlando Premium Outlets provide a shopping experience superior to that of a typical mall, and there are several smaller theme parks scattered around the area. Orlando also has Medieval Times, a dinner and tournament that allow guests to feel as if they are in a medieval king's court.

Key West

Key West is a significantly longer trip compared to the others in the list- it's about a 7 hour drive from the University. Those with the willingness to brave the long drive, however, are in for a treat. Key West is the last island of the Florida Keys, and home to the southernmost point of the continental United States. The island is small- just 4 miles by 2 miles- but has a personality that transcends its size. Key West boasts a healthy nightlife and beaches with sand imported from The Bahamas. A laidback day overlooking turquoise waters while listening to Jimmy Buffett is a standard in Key West (Buffett actually owns a home on the tiny island), and authentic key lime pie is always accessible. Vacationers can visit the Ernest Hemingway House and see its famed six toed cats, and afterwards eat some Conch, the sea creature for which the island is famous. Just be sure to pronounce it like the locals: "Conk."

South Beach

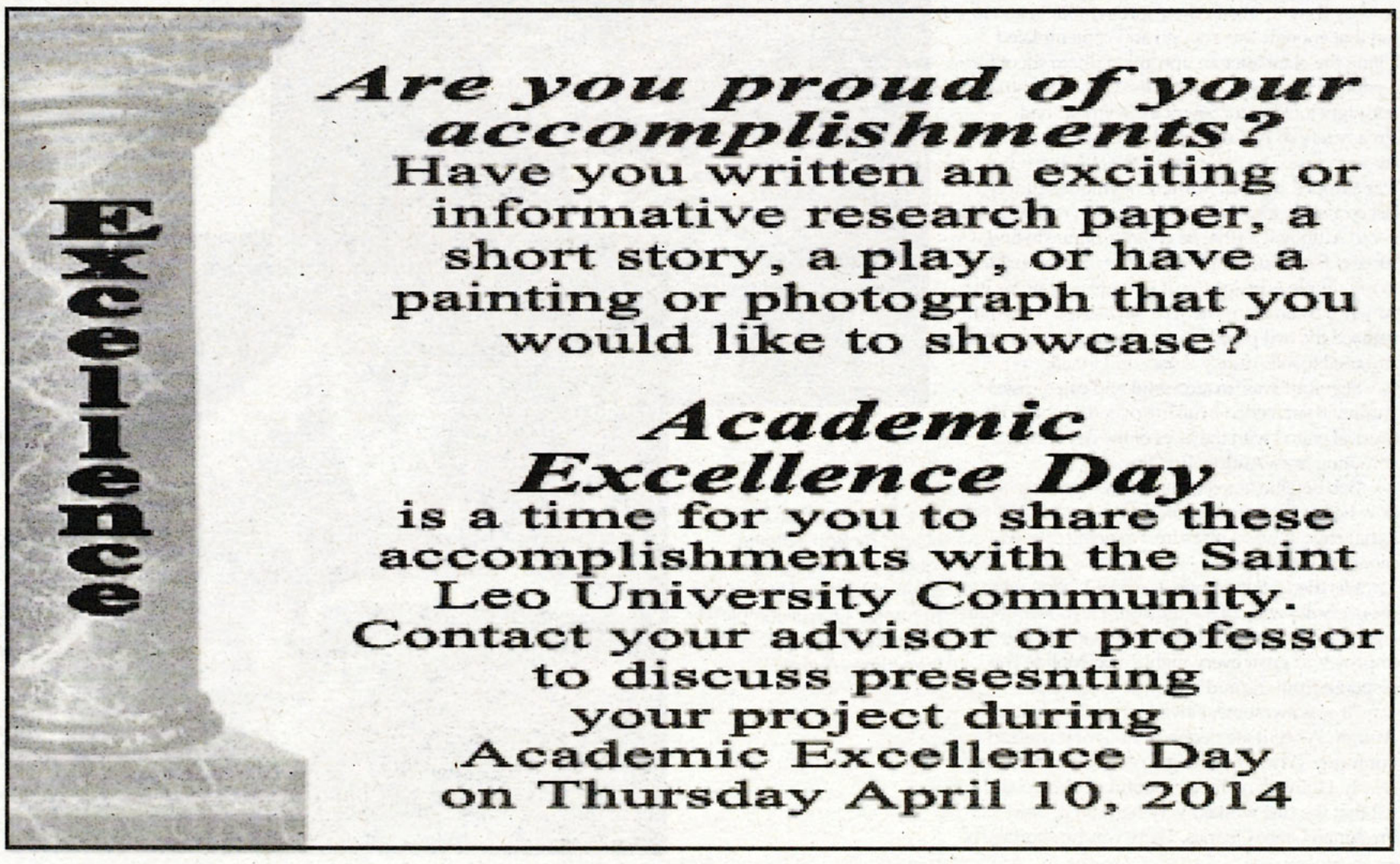
For those looking more toward the Miami area, South Beach is a good location to consider. The area's culture is like no other: tourists mix with locals in a city in which nightlife is accessible both night and day, and people aren't afraid to show their quirky sides. South Beach boasts a wide variety of art, from art galleries and museums to theatre, and is known for its Art Deco architecture. A variety of people with all different backgrounds inhabit South Beach, so the area is an inclusive and accepting community. The beaches are mostly clothing optional in South Beach; however, most people opt to remain clothed.

Marco Island

For those interested in a quieter beach trip, Marco Island, which is about a three hour drive from the University, is a beautiful location to consider. Though the beach side of the island is built upon by hotels and the rest is residential, Marco Island is still considered one of Florida's hidden gems. There isn't much in the beach area besides the hotels, so it allows those who wish for a quieter beach experience to relax and enjoy the ocean waves. There are still beachside restaurants on the hotel property, however, so those who still wish for some relative comforts won't be disappointed. Some of the hotels even have their own private stretch of beach, which is often more peaceful than the areas that are open to the public. Those who go are often mesmerized by the island's impressive beach sunset, and the appearance of shooting stars, which often occur several times nightly.

Caladesi Island

Caladesi Island is undoubtedly one of Florida's hidden gems. Just over an hour away from the University, Caladesi Island is often overlooked in favor of the neighboring better known Honeymoon Island. Caladesi is most definitely for people who wish to completely get away from society for a few hours and relax on the beach; the island is only accessible by boat. A ferry transports people back and forth on the island every few hours, so there is limited access to the general public and not a large amount of people can be on the island at once. Caladesi has not much more than a picnic area and nature trails, so visitors are expected to bring their own supplies as there is no place to purchase necessities on the island. Those who wish to spend the evening at the island on their boats are able to do so, and the nature trails provide the opportunity for visitors to find solace in the relative peace provided by nature.


Excellence
Are you proud of your accomplishments?
Have you written an exciting or informative research paper, a short story, a play, or have a painting or photograph that you would like to showcase?
Academic Excellence Day
is a time for you to share these accomplishments with the Saint Leo University Community.
Contact your advisor or professor to discuss presesnting your project during Academic Excellence Day on Thursday April 10, 2014

Campus News

Little Shop of Horrors Musical

By Kenna Dieffenwierth
Copy Editor

A strange plant had an attitude, teeth and a lust for blood in this year's musical by OPUS FIDES Drama Ministry. They presented an adapted version of the dark botanical comedy, "Little Shop of Horrors," in Selby Auditorium.

According to the play bill, the mission statement of OPUS FIDES is to share Christ's love and touch people's senses in different ways through theater. The musical this year did not have and overtly Christian message, but the characters were related to the seven deadly sins. Lust was represented by Seymour, gluttony by Audrey II, envy by Audrey, greed by Mr. Mushnik, wrath by Dr. Orin, pride by the Doo Wops and sloth by the Bums. "Although not intended for religious purposes, this show definitely shows how much we can jeopardize our lives by giving into temptations and allowing greed, lust, envy and all the others to take over," said Senior Dominique Spano in her director's note.The cast and crew had been working since Oct. for this musical to come together. There were five showings from Feb. 27 through March 2. So many people showed up that some had to sit on the stairs. The story took place at a run down plant shop on Skid Row owned by Mr. Mushnik (Sophomore Lindsey Thilmony). The shop was about to close down when one of the two shop workers, Seymour (Sophomore Connor Schaefer) got an idea. He tried to convince his boss that he could use a strange plant to attract customers. This plan worked in giving the shop hope. The only problem was that the plant, affectionately named Audrey II after his coworker, required human blood as sustenance. Seymour and the flower shop experienced success and fame, until Audrey II was no longer satisfied with just Seymour's blood. Audrey II begged Seymour for more. Seymour didn't want to kill anyone, but his desire for his coworker Audrey (Senior Anna McEntee) drove him to do whatever it would take to maintain his success. Seymour chose Audrey's abusive boyfriend, Orin Scrivello (Junior Bob Botelho), as the first victim. After watching the dentist asphyxiate on his own laughing gas, Seymour fed him to Audrey II. Mr. Mushnik started to get suspicious and became the second victim to the carnivorous plant. As offers to make money off of Audrey II continued to come in, Seymour began to feel that enough was enough and contemplated killing the plant after an upcoming photo shoot for a popular magazine. Audrey came back to the shop one night looking for Seymour. Seymour had already left, so Audrey II tricked its namesake into coming close. The plant began to eat Audrey, but was stopped by the returning Seymour. Audrey's last request before she died was for Seymour to feed her to Audrey II so that he could continue to find success. Seymour received another offer soon after to sell clippings of Audrey II so that every home in America could have one. The devastated Seymour realized the evil plant's plans for world domination and tried to kill Audrey II once and for all.

Seymour was unsuccessful and eaten instead. Audrey II succeeded in taking over the world. The musical ended with the faces of the devoured sprouting from Audrey II as flowers.

Bob Botelho, quoted one of his lines when asked how he felt about being a part of the musical."It was a challenge. It was a pleasure. I'm going to need more gas for this one."

His friend, Sophomore Michael Molloy, went to see every showing of the musical."He [Botelho] did a great job playing a woman. It was great. The improv was great every night," said Molloy.The response from the audience was positive.

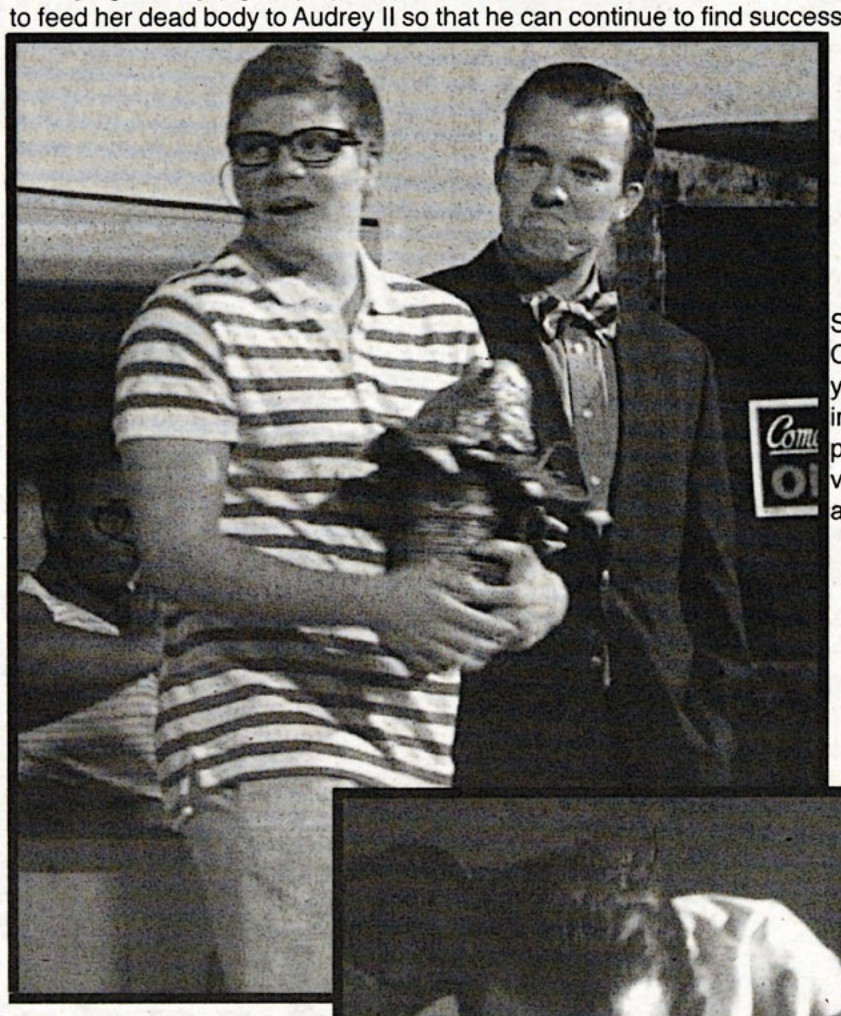
"It was awesome. I loved when the plant ate Audrey. When it ate people, I thought it was sad but funny. When they sang, I could hear them very clearly. I think they did a beautiful job. You could tell that the cast worked very hard on it," said Freshman Grace Quarles. There was no shortage of praise for the cast and crew.

"I really enjoyed it. It was a high quality performance, and the performers all really suited their roles," said Senior Lauren Horne.

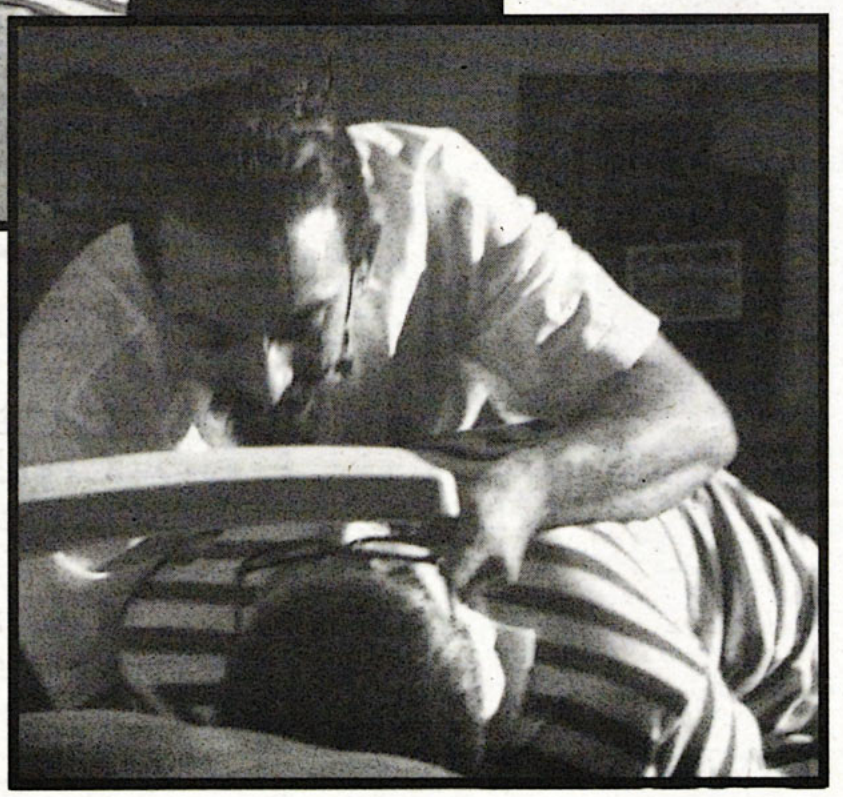
The show was dedicated to the director, Dominique Spano, and one of the two stage managers, Alexis Paul. This was the last musical production for these seniors with OPUS FIDES.

Photos taken by Kenna Dieffenwierth

The dying Audrey (right), played by Anna McEntee, tells Seymour (left), played by Connor Schaefer, to feed her dead body to Audrey II so that he can continue to find success in life.



Seymour (left), played by Connor Schaefer, holds a young Audrey II. An intrigued customer (right), played by Carl Shotwell, voiced the older Audrey II as well.



The crazed dentist Orin, played by Bob Botelho, focibly examining the teeth of Seymour, played by Connor Schaefer. Orin is completely unaware of Seymour's plan to feed him to Audrey II.

Arts & Entertainment

Game of Thrones: Win or Die

By Austin Chiavaroli
Contributing Writer

Fans of the fantasy genre are getting ready for the next action packed season of "Game of Thrones."

This show, which is set in a mediaeval fantasy world, has been a major success in the past few years due to its dramatic atmosphere, brilliant story, and characters that the audience either loves to hate or hates to love.

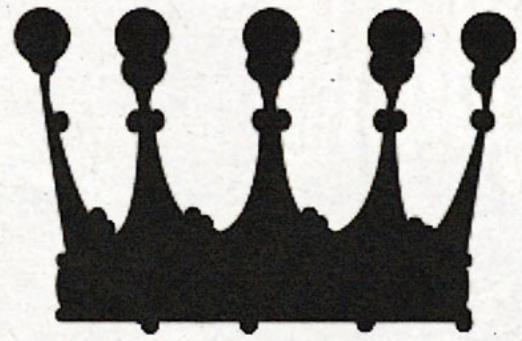
The TV series is based off of the ongoing book series "A Song of Ice and Fire" by George R.R. Martin. Martin has been the main producer of the show, so that it would not stray too far from the books like most movies and TV shows based off books.

So far the series has had pivotal violent death scenes, sexual content, and betrayals, which have left the audience sitting right at the edge of their seat. The biggest aspect to this story is that, like life, not everything ends well for the chivalrous characters. This is what sets the show far apart from other shows in television history. It surprises its audience with major unsuspecting turns of events and never lets up on the dangers and trust issues that each character deals with.

Some actors have grown in popularity from their presence in this show and have done a tremendous job acting and making the realm of Westeros, the world in which the characters all live, feel more real and believable. Such actors, like Sean Bean, who is known for playing Boromir in the "Lord of the Rings," and Peter Dinklage, who has played in "Elf" as an obnoxious dwarf author or Trumpkin in the "Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian."

If there is one detractor to the show, it is the massive amount of sexual content that is shown throughout every season. This makes it inappropriate for children, and many viewers tend to find this overuse of borderline pornographic detail disturbing. The first episode alone showed incest between Cersei Lannister (Lena Headey) and her brother Jaime (Nikolaj Coster-Waldau).

The last season left the audience with a sour taste. The infamous red wedding scene left many of the characters dead.



The show has several concurrent storylines, including the story of Ygritte, one of the Free Folk. Other storylines include the Baratheons, Daenerys' conquest, dragons, and civil war.

A trailer for the next upcoming season. The trailer shows one of the main characters, Daenerys Targaryen (Emilia Clarke), has possibly crossed the Narrow Sea and has started a war with the reigning Lannisters at King's Landing. Another character, Tyrion Lannister (Peter Dinklage), appears to be put in jail and has lost all hope in his family. The loner, Jon Snow (Kit Harington), has told Castle Black about the wildlings and their plans to breach over the walls.

There is expected to be more deaths of beloved characters, betrayal, and violent scenes that will make the audience cry, laugh, and scream with anger. The one question that most viewers are still wondering is, who is going to win this Game of Thrones

Fan favorite Jon Snow, illegitimate child of Ned Stark, fights the White Walkers, an army of undead creatures, from Beyond the Wall.

Brooke King: Alumni, Veteran, Poet

other members of the convoy would cover her front and rear, with another vehicle pulled up in front of her as she changed the tire.

As a woman on the frontlines, King challenged the stereotypes of women in the military. She made a name for herself as "one of the guys" with her no nonsense, straightforward attitude, and her willingness to ask for help when she didn't know what she was doing, which made less work for everyone else in the long run. King also had the chance to prove her strength along with the other women in her company. At 130 pounds, she was carrying around 320 pounds in gear and equipment. The barrel of her gun weighed in at 70 pounds.

On top of her experiences in the military, the chapbook also covers her life as a student, mom, veteran, and her experiences with PTSD.

"It sucks because you want to function as a normal person, and there's that little thing at the back of your head that says you're not normal. ... You've been through something that not a lot of people have."

According to King, the chapbook serves in part as a bridge to shrink the gap between those who come closest to war through a TV, and those who have actually seen combat.

Students who are interested in hearing more about King's experiences will have the opportunity on March 26. There will be a Green Rabbit Press reading at 7:00 pm during which she will read some of her chapbook.

However, this is not the only literary work of hers that students will have the chance to enjoy. "War Flower" is an upcoming fiction novel that follows the story of Private Sarah Miller during her deployment in Iraq, and addresses the issue of being a female soldier in combat.

"Sarah is a fictitious character that may have done some of the things I did," said King.

King explained that while she and Sarah may be similar in some ways, they aren't the same person.

"She's an emotional roller coaster, and I'm not," said King commenting on her character.

On top of her literary accomplishments, King is looking forward to a full course load next semester. She describes her teaching style as laid back and more discussion oriented rather than lecture-based. She is one of the youngest adjuncts on campus.

King is re-enlisting with the military in linguistics as an interpreter.

Sports

Bittersweet: Lady Lions Final Game

By Tanganyika Smith
Contributing Writer

Everything has its season and every game runs its course. Basketball is one of the many sports at Saint Leo University that contributes to the community. Saint Leo is big when it comes to the core values that help shape the family of the university.

On Saturday, March 1, 2014 at 2:00 pm the last game of the basketball season was played. The women's Saint Leo Lions played against the Nova Southeastern Sharks. After a very long a successful season, the seniors of the women's basketball team were acknowledged at the beginning of the game.

The seniors were number 10, Teresa Manigrasso, with a total of 397 points, 31 steals and 805 minutes. Number 13, Chelsea Williams, with 378 points, 12 steals and 477 minutes. Number 21, Erin Higgins, with 110 points, 13 steals and 380 minutes. Number 24, Chelsea Connelly, with 225 points, 36 steals and 831 minutes. Number 32, Keishara Green, with 202 points, 14 steals and 453 minutes.

Each senior had their spotlight time to be presented with a plaque, took pictures with the coaches and their family members.

The game was not only another competition for the fans and player of the basketball team. This game was a personal and emotional mission that everyone went through together. "Even though I only knew the players for a short period of time, I know that they are all great people. They are humble and considerate; I will really miss them," said Brianna Trimmings, a student.

This game was essential and people really wanted to see the women off for this last game. "I have been to every home game for the girls' basketball season and I have never seen the gymnasium so packed before this final game," stated Charee Belcher, a student.

Both the women Sharks and Lions had a goal in mind while playing the entire game, the goal was to win and make each other proud. Each time one team made a basket the other team was right behind them imitating the same actions. The players kept the score neck-and-neck not letting the opposing team get ahead, making it tough for an easy win.

Half time was the only time the players had to rest. The game consisted of continuous baskets, rebounds, steals, and passes and even fouls. The team put their heart and soul into the game. Though the Lady Lions lost the game 76-67, the team walked away with much pride and joy because they knew they gave their all throughout every game of the season.

In the season, every game that was played, every basket that was scored, and every game that won or lost, each player gave their all. "There was never a moment that I saw the players give up, they fought to the end and kept their heads up at all times'" said Kailen Pierre, a student. Each player stood out in effort and should be proud of the achievements they have made together as a whole.

Season End and Opportunity Begins

By Tanganyika Smith
Contributing Writer

In order to be considered as a team, you have to work and act as a team. There are no shortcuts to becoming a team player, and there are no shortcuts that can be taken to reach success either. The game of basketball is valued by many who know the history.

On Saturday, March 1, 2014, at 4:00 p.m., the men's basketball team played their last game of the season. The Saint Leo Lions played against the Nova Southeastern Sharks. This game was sentimental because this was the last game at Saint Leo University for some of the players.

The seniors were recognized before the game started. The first senior that was called out was number 25, Jerrel Harris. Jerrel has a record of 526 points, 27 steals and 770 minutes. Jerrel's family came to the court to acknowledge the success he had accomplished.

The second senior called to center court was number 15, Chim Kadima. Chim's record with 321 points, 20 steals and 652 minutes. Chim was joined on the court by his mother and father to indulge in his accomplishments of both finishing school and have a successful season with the Lion's basketball team.

The last and final senior that was called to be recognized was number 32, Spencer Mitchell. Spencer's record showed a history of 184 points, 19 steals and 851 minutes. Both Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell joined their son on the court to help celebrate and show pride towards the things their son have accomplished.

Each senior was successful with completing the basketball season. All three were handed a plaque and took pictures with their family all the coaches.

"I really believe that the boys did their best and gave their all this season; there is no reason not to be proud of them." Said Adriene Smith, a student.

The men's basketball team is one of the many favored sports on the campus of Saint Leo University. "At every home game for the boys basketball team the gymnasium is always filled with loyal fans and supporters. There is never a dull moment and sometimes there are hardly any seats available." Said Jasmine Nash, a student.

Whether the team won or lost was not a concern of the fans at all. The men gave their best when it came down to the game. The Saint Leo overall record for the men is 21-7 and 9-6 for the SSC.

Each player went into the game with mindset of doing the best they can. "I can honestly say that I am proud of the boys for their dedication and determination to the sport of basketball. They really went out with a bang, said Yaribilisa Colon, a student.

This game was the start of the eight-team tournament. The men finished the game off strongly, and won 81-68.

For the first time in the matter of 40+ years the men's basketball team earned a berth in the NCAA Tournament Division II. This is a result of their hard work and dedication to the sport. It is true teamwork in the making, all-for-one and one-for-all.